

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): An improved body element according to claim 8 for use in a modular prosthetic stem component of the sort comprising a body element and at least one other element, wherein said body element and said at least one other element are joined together by at least one modular connection, wherein said body element comprises:

an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging toward the other on a medial side of said body element and diverging away from the other on a lateral side of said body element, whereby said body element approximates a general wedge shape;

wherein said body element further comprises a lateral aspect extending between said anterior wall and said posterior wall;

wherein said body element further comprises a medial aspect extending between said anterior wall and said posterior wall;

wherein said body element comprises a generally trapezoidal configuration; and

wherein ~~the~~ vertices of said body element have a rounded configuration.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An improved body element according to claim ~~4~~ 9 wherein said anterior wall is substantially flat.

a | Claim 11 (currently amended): An improved body element according to claim ~~4~~ 9 wherein said posterior wall is substantially flat.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An improved body element according to claim ~~2~~ 9 wherein said lateral aspect is substantially flat.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An improved body element according to claim ~~7~~ 9 wherein said medial aspect is substantially flat.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An improved modular prosthetic stem component comprising:

a body element and at least one other element, wherein said body element and said at least one other element are joined together by at least one modular connection;

and further wherein said body element comprises an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging toward the other on ~~the~~ a medial side of said body element and diverging away from the other on ~~the~~ a lateral side of said body element, whereby the body element approximates a general wedge shape;

Al said body element comprising a generally trapezoidal configuration; and
vertices of said body element having a rounded configuration.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An improved prosthetic total hip joint comprising:

a modular prosthetic stem component and a prosthetic acetabular cup component, wherein said modular prosthetic stem component comprises a body element and at least one other element, wherein said body element and said at least one other element are joined together by at least one modular connection;

and further wherein said body element comprises an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging toward the other on ~~the~~ a medial side of said body element and diverging away from the other on ~~the~~ a lateral side of said body element, whereby said body element approximates a general wedge shape-;

said body element comprising a generally trapezoidal configuration; and

vertices of said body element having a rounded configuration.

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Claim 16 (currently amended): An improved method for restoring a hip joint, said method comprising:

providing an improved prosthetic total hip joint comprising:

a modular prosthetic stem component and a prosthetic acetabular cup component, wherein said modular prosthetic stem component comprises a body element and at least one other element, wherein said body element and said at least one other element are joined together by at least one modular connection;

~~and further~~ wherein said body element comprises an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging toward the other on ~~the~~ a

medial side of said body element and diverging away from the other on ~~the~~ a lateral side of said body element, whereby said body element approximates a general wedge shape; ~~and~~

said body element comprising a generally trapezoidal configuration; and

vertices of said body element having a rounded configuration; and

deploying said improved prosthetic total hip joint in ~~the~~ a patient.

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Claim 17 (new): A body element for use in a modular prosthetic stem component comprising a body element and at least one other element, wherein said body element and said at least one other element are joined together by at least one modular connection, wherein said body element comprises:

an anterior wall and a posterior wall, at least one of said anterior wall and said posterior wall converging toward the other on a medial side of said body element and diverging away from the other on a lateral side of said body element; and

said body element further comprising a lateral wall and a medial wall extending between said anterior wall and said

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posterior wall, said lateral and medial walls being generally parallel to each other; and

wherein vertices of said body element have a rounded configuration.

